

LEGACY FOR OUR MISSION:

For Our Children and the Future

PROJECT EXCEED'S SUCCESS INSPIRES EXPANSION OF EDUCATION SUPPORT

ABOUT FIVE YEARS AGO, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis received a challenge grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. that required the archdiocese to raise additional funds through individual, corporate and foundation donations. These generous donations from the community were put toward our Catholic center-city and urban schools.

of the project is becoming more and more evident. There's more to be done—and more schools and children that can be reached.

"Now we need to take Project EXCEED beyond Marion County to our other schools, as well as sustain what we have put in place here in Indy," Mickey Lentz, executive director for Catholic Education and Faith Formation, said.

The project focuses on three Rs for success in Catholic schools: recruit, retain and reward the best and qualified leaders and teachers for the schools; raise student performance with the best professional development available; and reach out to special populations, such as those needing special education or the Hispanic population.

In order to continue and expand Project EXCEED, Lentz said donations from the *Legacy for Our Mission* campaign will aid in sustaining and replicating the original progress. Some initiatives of the program include special education, summer camp, library programs for center-city schools, "career ladders" for teachers and outreach to Hispanic families.

As a result of Project EXCEED, teachers have been trained to better meet the growing needs of today's educational environment.

These trained teachers are forming a network of trainers themselves in order to spread the training through the archdiocese and continue the campaign's support of children and their education.

"This campaign will allow us to put the very best practices into our schools," Lentz said.

of continuous improvement and progress," Lentz added. "Not only do we accentuate academic achievement, but our schools also focus on the whole child where honesty, integrity and love for each other are instilled as good values."

At the end of the school day, Project EXCEED



The result was Project EXCEED.

Programs were successfully carried out to meet the initial goals of the grant, but the Office of Catholic Education is starting to set its sights on expanded goals as the success

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While the initial success of EXCEED has created excitement for the expansion of the program, there is still a recognition of the ongoing need in Indianapolis areas.

"We need to provide for our urban schools without losing sight of the major needs of all of them. They are all different and require unique approaches to learning," Lentz said. "We need to make our schools viable for the future—and not only viable, but thriving.

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continues to provide the best for archdiocesan schools and their students, while creating more than just an education. It is creating an experience that changes lives.

Legacy for Our Mission, the archdiocese's upcoming capital campaign, is guided by the principles of Christian stewardship and addresses the needs of archdiocesan ministries such as Catholic education. By contributing to Legacy for Our Mission through your local parish, a portion of your gift will be distributed to Catholic education programs such as Project EXCEED.